

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please amend Figure 11 to include the label "Prior Art". A replacement sheet for Figure 11 is included herewith.

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated August 6, 2007, Applicants have amended claims 1 – 8 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new matter. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

II. Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to Figures 1, 2, and 5 – 11, and has requested that the block elements be labeled with a description. Applicants would like to direct the Examiner to the Description of the Reference Numerals and Signs provided on page 8 of the specification which provides a description of every block element provided in the Figures. MPEP § 602.02(V)(o) provides that a suitable descriptive legend may be used subject to approval by the Office. Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn in light of the provided description.

Figure 11 has been labeled Prior Art and a replacement sheet is submitted herewith.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 – 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Regarding claims 1, 5, 7, and 8, Applicants have amended the claims to more particularly point out the proper antecedent basis. Regarding claim 3, antecedent basis for the term “the output signal” is provided in claim 1, from which claim 3 depends.

Regarding claim 6, the Examiner asserts that the phrase “signal generating means” is indefinite since no function is specified by the word(s) preceding “means”. However, signal generating (i.e., generating a signal) is functional. Accordingly, claim 6 meets the statutory requirements as written.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1 – 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Kuroda (USP 6,412,347) in view of Kinji (JP 05-037267) or Babala (USP 6,792,792).

Regarding claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Kuroda discloses every feature except the arrangement of a first switch and a second switch. The Examiner relies on Kinji as allegedly overcoming this deficiency. Specifically, the Examiner equates switched capacitor circuit SC 2 of Kinji with the first switch of claim 1 and SC circuit 3 with the second switch. However, it appears that even if the SC 2 and SC 3 circuits could be included in Kuroda, the structure of the smoothing circuit recited in the claim still would not be obtained because, at a minimum, SC 3 does not have an input terminal connected with the output of SC 2. Furthermore, the combination of Kuroda and Kinji also fails to disclose a smoothing circuit having a first and second capacitor as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, as each and every limitation must be disclosed or suggested by the prior art references in order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness (MPEP § 2143.03), and none of the cited references, alone or in combination with each other, disclose or even suggest at least the features recited above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

Claims 2 – 8 depend from claim 1. Under Federal Circuit guidelines, a dependent claim is nonobvious if the independent claim upon which it depends is allowable because all the limitations of the independent claim are contained in the dependent claims, *Harness International Inc. v. Simplimatic Engineering Co.*, 819 F.2d at 1100, 1108 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Accordingly, as claim 1 is patentable for at least the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all dependent claims are also in condition for allowance. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are patentable based on their own merits by adding novel and non-obvious features to the combination.

IV. Conclusion

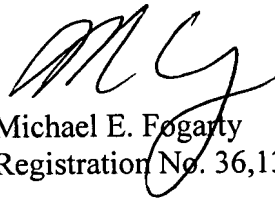
Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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